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HEBDEN ROYD  
Urban District Council

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*Annual*  
**REPORT**

*of the*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(J. LYONS,  
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

*and the*

SANITARY INSPECTOR  
(T. W. TINDALL  
A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.)

for 1953

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Hebden Bridge:  
Kershaw and Ashworth Ltd., Market Street.



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# **PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF**

## **HEBDEN ROYD U.D.C.**

### **Medical Officer of Health—**

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

### **Deputy Medical Officer of Health—**

Vacant.

### **Sanitary Inspector—**

T. W. TINDALL, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

## **WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **Preventive Medical Services : Health Division 19.**

Staff with duties in the Hebden Royd District:—

**Divisional Medical Officer—**As above (M.O.H.)

### **Assistant County Medical Officer—**

\*NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
(commenced 1:10:53).

### **Assistant County Medical Officer—**

\*ALICE SEELIG, M.D.

### **Medical Officers to Hebden Royd Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics—**

MADELEINE A. DOWDALL, M.B., Ch.B., at  
Hebden Bridge;

T. M. CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B., at Mytholmroyd.

### **School Dental Officer—**

Vacant.

### **Health Visitors—**

D. M. DACK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

R. I. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

\*M. LITTLE, S.R.N., S.C.M.

**Tuberculosis Health Visitor—**

\*B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

**Mental Health Social Worker—**

\*E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

**Midwives—**

\*M. COGAN, S.R.N., C.M.B.

D. SANDERSON, S.R.N., C.M.B.

**Home Nurses—**

\*I. COLLUMBELL, S.R.N., C.M.B.

\*A. M. SCHOLICK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

\* Also have duties in other parts of the Division.

**HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE**

**Consultant Staff—**

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

W. O. LODGE, M.D., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.)

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

P. M. WOOD, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Orthopædic Surgeon:

G. HYMAN, M.B., F.R.C.S.

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Year ending December 31st, 1953

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,  
Todmorden.

October, 1954.

To the Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the seventh Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Borough of Todmorden, the Urban Districts of Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year indicate a generally satisfactory level of health in the community. Although the infant mortality rate appears high at 44.8 per 1,000 births, its calculation is based on a very small number of deaths and it is therefore subject to considerable fluctuation from year to year. It is, however, interesting to note that the infant mortality rate for the Division as a whole was the lowest on record, viz.: 19.0 per 1,000 births. This figure was also lower than in any of the other 29 West Riding Divisions and compares very favourably with the infant mortality rate of 26.8 for England and Wales. Maternal deaths were absent for the seventh successive year, a reflection of the remarkable efficiency of the domiciliary and hospital midwifery services.



There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the year but both whooping-cough and measles were prevalent. None of the 45 children notified as suffering from whooping-cough had been vaccinated against this disease under the provisions of the County Council's scheme, but it would be premature to regard this as confirmation of the value of this relatively new form of immunisation. Thirty-eight Hebden Royd children (all under four years of age) were inoculated in this scheme during 1953.

The Todmorden smallpox outbreak of 1953 had repercussions in this district. Routine investigations led to the discovery of a number of Hebden Royd residents who had unwittingly been in contact with the disease. They were promptly visited and vaccinated and kept under close daily supervision: none of these "contacts" developed the disease. It was felt that a further spread of infection could be prevented without the need for large-scale public vaccination and a statement to the Press was made to this effect. In spite of this assurance, which was justified by events, approximately one-eighth of the Hebden Royd population sought and received vaccination from their overworked general practitioners.

Tuberculosis shows signs of ceasing to be a major threat to the youth of the community. Only seven new cases were notified during the year, as compared with fifteen in the previous year, and no deaths were recorded. The improvement over the past few years is due to better facilities for diagnosis, more effective treatment and the increase in the consumption of pasteurised and T.T. milk. Better nutrition following years of full employment is also an important contributory factor.

Unfortunately, cancer of lung has waxed where tuberculosis has waned and five deaths are recorded this year. Recent research points a finger of suspicion at smoke pollution of the atmosphere as well as at excessive cigarette smoking. It is to be hoped that intelligent individuals and far-seeing local authorities will not wait for positive proof before taking appropriate action.

The care of the aged continues to be the daily concern of the Divisional Health Department. The local Old People's Welfare Committee has assisted very substantially in the ascertainment of persons requiring special attention and the Home Nursing, Home Help and Health Visiting Services

of the County Council are fully extended in an effort to keep the old folk happy and healthy in their own homes.

The housing position has been reviewed in the light of Ministerial statements of policy. The possibilities of slum clearance are being seriously considered and it is hoped that a modest start may be made within the next year or two. The chief difficulty is, of course, the problem of re-housing the tenants of cleared property, the solution of which is not rendered easier by the fact that many of those who at present inhabit unfit houses (including a considerable number of pensioners) are questioning their ability to pay the rents of post-war Council houses.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council for their kindness, patience and co-operation, and to thank Mr. Tindall, Sanitary Inspector, for his kindness and most willing assistance in helping me to tackle the numerous problems of the Health Department.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,

L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION I

### Vital Statistics

#### Statistics—

Area: 7,084 acres (Hebden Bridge Ward 476 acres,  
Mytholmroyd Ward 6,608 acres).

Population: Registrar-General's estimate of Resident

Population, mid-1953 10,010

1951 Census 10,233

Number of dwelling houses: 3,956.

Rateable Value: £67,194.

Product of a penny rate: £266 6s. 6d.

#### Summary of Vital Statistics—

	Total	M	F	
Live Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	126* 8*	60 4	66 4	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: <b>13.4</b>
Still Births— Legitimate Illegitimate	2 —	1 —	1 —	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: <b>14.7</b>
All Deaths	145	85	60	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: <b>14.5</b>
Deaths of infants under 1 year Legitimate Illegitimate	6 —	4 —	2 —	Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births): <b>44.8</b>

\*These figures include births outside the Urban District to  
mothers usually resident in Hebden Royd.

# CAUSES OF DEATH IN HEBDEN ROYD DISTRICT

1953

CAUSE OF DEATH	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	—	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	5	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	—	—
16. Diabetes .....	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	12	9
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	17	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	1	6
20. Other heart diseases .....	19	13
21. Other circulatory diseases .....	1	1
22. Influenza .....	1	3
23. Pneumonia .....	3	1
24. Bronchitis .....	4	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	1	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	1	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	—	—
34. All other accidents .....	2	2
35. Suicide .....	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—
<b>TOTAL, ALL CAUSES</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>60</b>

# Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1953 :

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todm'den M.B.	Sowerby Br'ge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England & Wales (Provisional Figures)
<b>BIRTH RATE:—</b> (per 1,000 estimated population)	13.4	10.6	12.9	16.1	14.2	15.4	15.7	15.5
<b>DEATH RATES:—</b> (All per 1,000 estimated population). All Causes.	14.5	10.6	13.2	12.2	11.7	12.5	11.6	11.4
Infective and parasitic diseases *	0.10	—	0.27	—	—	0.09	0.08	* *
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	—	0.25	0.16	—	—	0.17	0.16	0.18
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—	0.05	—	0.02	0.02	0.02
Respiratory Diseases:—†								
(excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.70	1.97	1.45	1.35	0.96	1.39	1.30	* *
Cancer	2.50	0.98	2.25	2.32	3.46	1.99	1.88	1.99
Heart and circulatory diseases‡	5.99	3.68	4.67	4.75	3.66	4.63	4.26	* *
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2.10	1.72	2.31	1.35	1.73	1.96	1.76	* *
<b>INFANT MORTALITY:—</b> (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	44.8	23.3	12.5	16.8	—	27.6	29.3	26.8
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY:—</b> (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live still-births) and	—	—	—	—	—	0.38	0.51	0.76

\* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infections, diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, and other infective and parasitic diseases.

† Combined death rate from influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.



## **SECTION II**

### **General Provision of Health Services**

#### **A. Hospitals**

There is no hospital in Hebden Royd. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred, as a rule, to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Shelf Sanatorium, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital for mentally defective patients.

Maternity beds are available at both the Halifax General and Royal Infirmary. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g., Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

#### **B. Ambulance Service**

The County Council took over the control of the ambulance service towards the end of 1947. The area served by the Todmorden Ambulance Depot now includes Hebden Bridge but not Mytholmroyd which is covered by the Halifax Corporation Ambulance Service under an agency agreement. This is not regarded as an ideal arrangement.

#### **C. Laboratory Facilities**

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford.

**D. Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.**

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

**SECTION III**

**W.R.C.C. Preventive Health Services**

**A. Clinics and Treatment Centres**

**PITT STREET CLINIC, HEBDEN BRIDGE.** — The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held here every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon with Dr. M. A. Dowdall in attendance together with the Health Visitors, and an Ante Natal Clinic similarly staffed is held every Friday afternoon. The School Clinic is held every Wednesday morning and is attended by Dr. Seelig. Sunlight clinics are held every Tuesday and Friday morning.

**SCOUT ROAD METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.**— Dr. T. M. Crawford attends the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Mytholmroyd on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

**B. Care of Mothers and Young Children**

**HEBDEN ROYD ANTE NATAL CLINIC**

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	93*
Total number of attendances .....	409*

**HEBDEN ROYD CHILD WELFARE CLINICS**

Number of children seen by doctor during the year	1,421*
Total number of attendances .....	4,537*

**HOME VISITING OF INFANTS**

Total number of live births to Hebden Royd mothers	134
Number of first visits to children under 1 year .....	99
Total number of visits to children under 1 year .....	1,345
Total number of visits to children aged 1—5 years...	1,994

\* These figures include mothers and children who reside in the Hepton Rural District but attend the clinics in Hebden Royd.

## CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

## PROVISION OF MATERNITY OUTFITS

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

## DAY NURSERY ACCOMMODATION

There is a Day Nursery situated in the centre of Hebden Bridge to which children under 5 years can be admitted under certain conditions.

# C. Professional Nursing in the Home

## Midwifery Service

The West Riding County Council employ two full-time midwives in the Hebden Royd area. One nurse is responsible for the work in the Hebden Bridge and Hepton districts; the other nurse's area covers the Mytholmroyd, Luddenden Foot and Midgley districts, etc.

Number of confinements at home .....	46
Number of confinements in hospital .....	90

## Analgesia

The midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and provided with the necessary equipment.

## Home Nursing Service

There are two full-time Home Nurses working in the Hebden Royd Urban District. Their areas are the same as those worked by the two midwives.

# D. Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.



**E. Home Helps**

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1953, 48 cases were attended by Home Helps and the total number of hours worked was 9,086 as compared with 7,304 hours the previous year.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households “where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age.”

Of the 48 cases attended in 1953, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 28 aged and chronic sick, 20 maternity cases.

**F. Care and After Care**

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease and other illnesses.

**G. School Health Service**

Number of schools in the district .....	8
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1953 .....	1,907
Number of children examined at school during 1953	897
this figure being made up as follows:—	
Routine examinations .....	611
Re-examinations .....	286
Number of above children referred for treatment ...	67

**H. Immunisation and Vaccination**

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

# **Number of Children in Hebden Royd who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time to 31-12-53**

Age at 31-12-53 i.e. born in yea.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
	14	98	73	135	134	591	720	1765

Estimated Mid-year population (under 15 years) ... 1908

## **Number of Children in Hebden Royd who had completed a full course of Immunisation 1953**

	0-1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections 1953	14	79	5	2	1	6	2	1	2	2	1	1	-	-	-

Total 116

	-	-	-	-	20	55	46	12	3	7	17	11	-	-	1
Immunised in previous years re-treated 1953	-	-	-	-	20	55	46	12	3	7	17	11	-	-	1

Total 172

## **Vaccination Against Smallpox**

During the year 1,280 persons were vaccinated against smallpox. Of this number, 38 were infants under the age of one year.

## SECTION IV

### Infectious Diseases

#### Summary of Notifications received in year 1953

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever .....	1
Whooping cough .....	45
Acute poliomyelitis .....	1
Measles .....	98
Diphtheria .....	—
Acute pneumonia .....	—
Dysentery .....	2
Smallpox .....	—
Acute encephalitis .....	—
Enteric or typhoid fever .....	—
Paratyphoid fevers .....	—
Erysipelas .....	—
Meningococcal infection .....	—
Food poisoning .....	—
Puerperal pyrexia .....	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis .....	7
Other forms of tuberculosis .....	3
	157

#### Tuberculosis

The number of new cases notified during 1953 are given in detail in the following table:—

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	1	1	—	1
5—10 .....	1	1	1	—
10—15 .....	—	—	—	—
15—20 .....	—	—	—	—
20—25 .....	—	—	—	1
25—35 .....	—	—	—	—
35—45 .....	1	—	—	—
45—55 .....	—	—	—	—
55—65 .....	2	—	—	—
65 and over .....	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	2	1	2



HEBDEN ROYD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

**Year ending December 31st, 1953**

Sanitary Inspector's Office,  
Council Offices,  
Mytholmroyd.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Royd  
Urban District Council**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth annual report as your Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

An outbreak of smallpox at Todmorden in the early part of the year had its repercussions in Hebden Royd, although, fortunately, none of the local contacts developed the disease. During the period of the outbreak, all work of a routine nature had, of necessity, to be suspended, a fact which is reflected in this year's report.

During the year a special survey of the district was carried out to ascertain the number of houses without baths. This originated as a request from the Baths Committee in order to assist them in their decision as to the need for the provision of public slipper baths.

It was decided to extend the scope of the survey to include information with regard to sanitary conveniences and wash-basins. The information obtained proved to be very enlightening. Of the 3,614 houses surveyed, 743 were found to be without a separate sanitary convenience and 241 were provided with pail closets. Further, 49.1% of the houses were without fixed baths and 56.2% without washing basins.

With regard to refuse collection and disposal, I am pleased to be able to report that there have been far less changes in staff than in previous post-war years. A per-

manent staff is all to the good and tends to increase the efficiency of the service. Results of salvage disposal were disappointing but were due to market conditions, a matter entirely beyond our control. There are some grounds for hoping, however, that 1954 will see an improvement in this respect.

Finally, I would like to place on record my appreciation of the keen interest in the work shown by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. My thanks are also tendered to Dr. J. Lyons, Medical Officer of Health, for his invaluable help and advice, at all times so freely given. And I would express my thanks to the other Chief Officials of the Council for their assistance in compiling this report and for their co-operation throughout the year.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. W. TINDALL, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing  
Superintendent.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

Number of houses in the district .....	3,956
Number of houses erected in 1953:—	
(a) by local authority .....	10 houses, 14 flats
(b) by private builders .....	6 houses
Number of houses demolished during 1953 .....	3
Number otherwise ceased to be used as dwellinghouses	6

### **Water Supply**

Water is obtained in bulk from the Halifax Corporation and distributed by the Council, and there are, in addition, a number of private supplies.

Number of dwellinghouses on public supply ..... 3,156

Number of dwellinghouses not on public supply ..... 800

No extensions to mains have been carried out during the year.

### **Sewerage and Drainage**

No extensions and no improvements to existing sewers have been carried out during the year.

There still remain some 420 houses not connected to a public sewer, most of them being situated in outlying areas where no sewer is available.

## Closet Accommodation

Number of privies with covered middens .....	3
Number of pail closets .....	281
Waste water closets .....	13
Water closets .....	3992
Number of pail closets converted to water closets	Nil.
Number of additional water closets installed during 1953:—	
(a) for old property .....	13
(b) for new houses .....	30
Total number of closets in the district .....	4289
Percentage of closets on water carriage system .....	93.08%

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of inspections made during the year:—

Dwellinghouses (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	353
Drains examined and tested .....	95
Places of entertainment (sanitary conveniences) .....	2
Atmospheric pollution:	
Smoke observations .....	18
Recording instruments .....	306
	————— 324
Offensive trades .....	3
Water supplies .....	20
Infectious diseases .....	174
Common lodging houses .....	3
Moveable dwellings .....	3
Food:	
Food inspection .....	38
Catering establishments .....	25
Food shops .....	22
Bakehouses .....	18
Butchers' shops .....	6
Fried fish shops .....	9
Ice cream premises .....	17
Preserved foods .....	15
Milk and dairies .....	9
Food hawkers' vehicles and premises .....	3
Food manufacturers .....	3
Markets .....	15
	————— 180



Factories:			
Mechanical .....	14		
Non-mechanical .....	6		
Workplaces .....	3		
Outworkers' premises .....	9		
Means of escape in case of fire .....	14		
	—		46
Shops Act .....			11
Rag Flock Act .....			2
Hairdressers and Barbers .....			16
Special survey re sanitary accommodation, baths and washing facilities .....			1077
Rodent control .....			149
Alleged filthy or verminous premises .....			4
Interviews with owners and contractors on site .....			34
Refuse collection and disposal .....			145
Salvage .....			17
Samples taken:			
Water:			
	Bacteriological	Chemical	
Public supplies .....	1	—	
Private supplies .....	18	—	
Plumbo-solvency .....	—	6	
	—		25
Milk:			
Designated .....	13		
Un-designated .....	4		
Biological .....	4		
Ring Test for			
Brucella Abortus	17		
	—		38
Ice cream .....			14

## NUISANCES AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Ninety-five complaints were received and investigated during the year, the principal causes of complaint being housing defects, drainage and rodent infestation, housing defects accounting for 27% of the total.

	Informal	Statutory
Number outstanding 31st December, 1952 .....	45	8
Number of notices served in 1953 .....	79	7
Number of notices complied with in 1953 .....	70	8
Number outstanding 31st December, 1953 .....	54	7

## SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

Defective dustbins replaced .....	159
Leaking roofs repaired .....	4
Eaves gutters repaired, renewed or provided .....	6
Rain water pipes repaired .....	7
Defective floors repaired .....	1
Walls and ceilings re-plastered .....	7
Defective fire ranges repaired .....	2
Dampness of walls remedied .....	11
Defective sanitary pails renewed .....	3
Doors and windows repaired .....	4
Adequate water supplies provided .....	1
Offensive accumulations removed .....	3
Handrails repaired or provided .....	2
Defective chimneys repaired .....	4
Leaking skylights repaired .....	2
Filthy condition of premises abated .....	1
Waste pipes repaired .....	4
Defective soil pipe repaired .....	1
Overcrowding abated .....	1
Water supply provided to sanitary fittings .....	5
Obstructed surface water drains and gullies cleared ...	4
Defective tap washer renewed .....	1
Defective drains repaired .....	2
Water closet cisterns repaired .....	2
Defective water closets repaired .....	3
Additional water closets installed .....	13
Additional kitchen sinks installed .....	2
Additional lavatory basins installed .....	8
Additional baths installed .....	9

## HOUSING

During the year, representations were made in respect of four dwellings, and Closing Orders were made in each case. All four houses were vacated before the end of the year.

One house was demolished in pursuance of a Demolition Order made in 1951, and two houses (the subject of Closing Orders) were demolished by the owner.

Five cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year, one case being abated by transfer to a Council house.

Twenty-four houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Act, 1936. Two informal notices were served requiring the execution of repairs, and repairs were completed at three houses which were the subject of informal notices served in 1952.

## **DRAINAGE**

During the year, fifteen drains were tested, of which twelve were found to be in a defective condition, and the necessary notices served. As a result of this action, one drain was re-laid and the defects in the remainder were remedied. A further six drains were found to be obstructed and were cleared after service of informal notices.

A total of twenty-five new branch drains and connections were examined and tested.

## **PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT**

Once again, I am pleased to be able to report that the sanitary conveniences provided at hotels, public houses, etc., continue to be maintained in a generally satisfactory condition throughout the district. Works of improvement to the conveniences at two public houses were completed during the year.

The temporary sanitary accommodation at the Hebden Bridge Agricultural Show was similar to last year and appeared to be adequate.

## **ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**

### **Observations at Redacre Sewage Works, Mytholmroyd**

	Rainfall (mms.)	Total Solid Deposit (tons per sq. mile)	Atmospheric Sulphur (mgms. per 1,000 sq. cm.)
January .....	26	10.34	23.1
February .....	53	11.25	19.7
March .....	59	14.62	17.2
April .....	95	17.22	10.1
May .....	70	9.97	6.9
June .....	71	10.04	4.3
July .....	115	25.64	6.9
August .....	115	15.63	8.5
September .....	95	12.90	15.1
October .....	53	12.87	16.5
November .....	122	15.70	23.2
December .....	40	13.54	27.0

A smoke nuisance was found, on observation, at one textile mill. Mechanical stokers are in operation at this factory and it was ascertained, on investigation, that the cause of the excessive emission of black smoke was due to improper handling of the apparatus by the stoker. A warning was given to the occupier of the factory and subsequent



observations have not shown any further excessive emission.

This case tends to emphasise the point I made in my last annual report, i.e., that even mechanical stoking equipment must be handled intelligently if smoke nuisance is to be prevented.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious diseases were investigated during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	5
Poliomyelitis	2
Sonne Dysentery	2

In addition to the above, there was an outbreak of smallpox in the neighbouring borough of Todmorden during March. As a consequence of this, there were twenty contacts in the Hebden Royd area, all of whom were visited daily throughout the incubation period. Fortunately, none of them contracted the disease. In order to ensure adequate supplies of vaccine lymph being always readily available for use by local doctors, a depot for this material was established at my office. By this means, a supply of lymph could always be despatched to a doctor within a few minutes of a telephone call.

Assistance in the investigation of cases and the visiting of contacts in the Todmorden area was also given to the hard-pressed inspectors there.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is only one common lodging house on the register, and the premises are maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Another common lodging house was discovered in operation without registration. The Council refused to register the premises on the grounds of their unsatisfactory condition and the establishment was closed.

## FOOD

### Food Inspection

During the year a total of 5 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb. of food was condemned and destroyed, made up as follows:—

	cwt.	qr.	lb.	oz.
Rice				8
Sago				8
Ginger				12
Sultanas		1	7	0
Sausages		1	0	0

Jellied veal .....	2	0
Tongue .....		8
Pork .....	3	0
Mutton .....	1	4
Spam .....	1	0
Bacon .....	1 24	0
Boiled ham .....	2	13

Food in containers:

Meat and meat products	73
Fruit and vegetables ...	209
Milk .....	18
Cream .....	1
Fish and fish products	3
Soups .....	2
Baby foods .....	4
Preserves .....	15
Salad cream .....	10
Coffee .....	1
Mincemeat .....	2
Dessert powders .....	12

4 3 4 11

5 3 20 0

There were two cases of extraneous matter found in bread, and the firms concerned were warned by the Council that legal proceedings would be considered if there was any repetition.

### Preparation, Storage and Sale of Food

Type of Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Defects Found	Number of Defects Remedied
Catering Establishments	41	25	6	6
Food Shops	70	22	11	4
Bakehouses	18	18	5	2
Fried Fish Shops	13	9	1	1
Butchers' Shops	15	6	2	—
Preserved Food	11	15	2	1
Markets	1	15	4	2
Food Hawkers	2	3	1	—
Food Factories	2	3	1	—

During the year, one transport cafe and shop, accommodated in a dilapidated wooden hut, was closed down and the business transferred to newly-constructed premises.

The Hebden Bridge market ground was acquired by the Council at the beginning of the year. As a result of a report submitted to the Health Committee on the condition of those stalls where food was handled, the Council decided to have all stalls put into a proper state of repair and the food stalls completely enclosed at the back and sides. This elementary, but very desirable, improvement has been, I am sure, appreciated both by the stall holders and the general public.

The following is an analysis of the type of defects found, and the improvements effected, at food premises:—

DEFECTS	Number found	Number remedied
Cleanliness of walls, floors, doors, ceilings and windows .....	19	14
Sanitary conveniences communicating directly with food preparation room	1	1
Offences against Byelaws .....	13	9
No proper accommodation for storage of food .....	2	2
Walls, ceilings, floors, etc., not in a proper state of repair .....	7	7
Inadequate refuse storage accommo- dation .....	4	2
No hot water available .....	7	3
Lack of adequate ventilation .....	5	5
Lack of personal cleanliness .....	1	1
Utensils, etc., dirty .....	2	1
Inadequate washing facilities .....	4	—
Clean towels not provided .....	2	—
Defective sanitary convenience .....	1	—

A study of the above table will show that, as usual, by far the greatest number of contraventions were in connection with elementary cleanliness. Whilst I am a firm believer in the value of education as a means of improving the standard of food handling, I am still firmly convinced that most good can be accomplished by frequent visits to all food premises, the more frequent the better. Experience has shown that far more good can be accomplished by informal talks to small groups of workers on the site —



showing them where they are going wrong, and the correct ways of doing things, and why—than in all the large-scale lectures, etc.

Furthermore, I feel that health education should properly start in schools, if not before. After all, the practice of hygiene should be a habit, and all habits, good and bad, commence at a very early age. Only those who have it to do realise how difficult it is to persuade an adult to change the bad habits of a lifetime.

**Ice Cream**

Number of manufacturers on register at 31st December, 1953 .....	3
Number of retailers on register at 31st December, 1953 .....	28

During the year, two dealers were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, and sale was discontinued at one premises. One shop keeper commenced to manufacture by the cold mix process.

Fourteen samples were obtained and submitted to bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

Type of Ice-cream	Provisional Grade			
	I	II	III	IV
Pre-wrapped ... ..	8	2	—	—
Loose ... ..	4	—	—	—

These results may be considered to be very satisfactory. Pre-wrapped ice cream only is now sold at all but two premises in the district. Loose ice cream is sold from a number of vehicles, but these are all properly designed and equipped, including the provision of washing facilities with hot and cold water, and the standard of cleanliness is excellent.

**Milk and Dairies**

Number of distributors on register .....	4
Licences in force:—	

	Dealers	Supplementary
Tuberculin Tested .....	1	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1	3
Sterilised .....	2	—
Pasteurised .....	1	—

Samples: The results of samples of milk submitted to bacteriological examination were as follows:—

Grade	Number of samples	Number satisfactory	Number unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested .....	10	9	1
Accredited .....	1	1	—
Pasteurised .....	2	2	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	—	—	—
Ungraded .....	4	3	1

All four samples of milk submitted to biological test for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli were found to be negative.

The organisms of Contagious Abortion were discovered in a sample of ungraded milk from a local producer-retailer, and a statutory notice was therefore served upon him requiring the pasteurisation of all milk before sale for human consumption. At the same time, group and individual samples were obtained from all cows in the herd and submitted to the Ring Test in order to isolate the offending animal or animals as quickly as possible. The infection was traced to one cow which was withdrawn from the herd and disposed of.

## FACTORIES, WORKPLACES AND SHOPS

### Factories Act 1937 and 1948

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Prosecutions
		Inspections	Writt'n N'tic's	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	2	—	—
(2) Factories (not included in (1) above) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	151	12	1	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

Cases in which defects were found:—

Defects	Number of Cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness .....	1	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .....	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—					
(a) Insufficient .....	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	3	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	2	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	7	1	—	7	—
Total .....	14	3	—	8	—

Outworkers

There are 47 outworkers on the register, all of whom are engaged in the clothing trade. This is a reduction of 24 on the previous year. No instances were found of work being performed in unsuitable premises.

Shops Act

One shop was found to be without adequate ventilation and notice was served upon the occupier. The defect was remedied before the end of the year.

RODENT CONTROL

Annual test-baiting of the sewers was carried out in May, only three of the manholes tested showing evidence of infestation.

	Inspected	Found to be infested		Treated by Local Authority	Number of notices served	
		Rats	Mice		Section 4	Rat Proofing
Dwellinghouses .....	30	4	5	9	—	3
Business Premises.....	135	5	8	13	—	2
Agricultural Property .....	47	—	—	—	—	—
Local Authority.....	4	3	1	4	—	—
Property (excluding houses)						
Total	216	12	14	26	—	5



## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The total quantities of refuse collected and tipped during the year were as follows:—

Domestic refuse .....	1,936 loads
Night soil .....	192 loads
Trade refuse .....	220 loads, 3,973 bins.

As I forecast in my last report, the nett costs of refuse collection and disposal have risen sharply, due almost entirely to a marked reduction in income from salvage. The total nett cost worked out at £5,898 7s. 11½d. or £2 2s. 9¾d. per load.

No new vehicles were acquired during the year and there was no alteration in the methods of collection and disposal which worked very satisfactorily.

## SALVAGE

The total quantities of salvage disposed of during the year were as follows:—

Material	Weight			Income		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste paper: mixed	48	4	1	213	11	0
board	2	0	0	13	0	0
Textiles		12	2			
Ferrous metal	1	10	0	19	18	0
Non-ferrous metal		5	2			
Light Scrap	6	5	0	12	10	0
Miscellaneous				1	3	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

As already mentioned, the above figures show a marked reduction compared with the previous year. The tonnage sold dropped by 42% whilst the income dropped by 73%.



